

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3376

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7425

EXDIS

CAMBODIA-B NO. 73

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJECT: FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN TAM

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN TAM HAS ASKED FOR US HELP TO RESETTLE HIS FAMILY AND 200 FOLLOWERS. IN TAM SAID HE CAME ACROSS THE BORDER NEAR ARANYPRATHET UNDER FIRE AND IS NOW STAYING AT A THAI ARMY CAMP AT THAT THAI BORDER TOWN. THE THAI GAVE HIM PERMISSION TO SPEND THREE DAYS IN BANGKOK AND HE WILL RETURN TO THE CAMP APRIL 26. ACCORDING TO IN TAM, THE THAI ARE UNWILLING TO LET KHMER REFUGEES SETTLE IN THAILAND AND HIS SOURCES CLAIM THAT WHEN THE NEW KHMER GOVERNMENT STABILIZES THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, THE THAI WILL REQUIRE KHMER REFUGEES TO RETURN. IN TAM NOTED THAT HE IS ON THE KC BLACK LIST AND SAID THAT HIS FOLLOWERS NOW IN THAILAND HAVE BEEN WITH HIM SINCE SIHANOUK'S FALL AND ARE ALSO MARKED FOR DEATH. HE ADDED THAT THE KC HAVE SET UP A LOUDSPEAKER ACROSS THE CREEK THAT FORMS THE THAI BORDER NEAR THE CAMP WHICH SHELTERS HIS PEOPLE AND ARE DIRECTING A STEADY STREAM OF ABUSE AND DEATH THREATS AT THE REFUGEES.

2. WE TOLD IN TAM THAT WE WOULD PASS HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON BUT HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE ANYONE OTHER THAN IN TAM HIMSELF AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY. IF THE US WOULD NOT RECEIVE HIS ENTIRE GROUP, IN TAM ASKED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO FIND SOME COUNTRY THAT WOULD. HE MENTIONED AUSTRALIA
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OR PERHAPS INDONESIA BUT NOTED THAT INDONESIA IS ALREADY HEAVILY

POPULATED. HE SAID HE HAD NOT CONTACTED OTHER EMBASSIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IN TAM, WAS ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES IN SIHANOUK'S OVERTHROW AND IS ONE OF THE FEW PROMINENT FIGURES TO RETAIN VESTIGES OF POPULARITY AMONG KHMER. HE IS AMONG THE SEVEN WHOM THE KC HAVE SENTENCED TO DEATH AND IS, OF COURSE, CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE US EFFORT IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. IN TAM WAS LONG BORET'S PRE-DECESSOR AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1973. WE RECOMMEND HE AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY BE GIVEN PAROLE.
MASTERS

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